United Nations S/2004/455

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 June 2004
English
Original: French

Letter dated 3 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the communiqué issued at the extraordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of the Congo held on Wednesday, 2 June 2004, under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic and Head of the State, His Excellency Major-General Joseph Kabila (see annex).

Inasmuch as the involvement of the Rwandese Republic in the tragic events of Bukavu is a known fact, my Government requests the United Nations Security Council to adopt exemplary sanctions with regard to that country, **which remains to this day the sole obstacle to the overall peace process taking place in the Great Lakes region.**

My Government appeals to the international community as a whole to apply pressure to Rwanda to withdraw its troops not only from Bukavu, but from all Congolese territory.

My Government would also like to bring squarely to the attention of the Security Council the fact that "officers" prosecuted by Congolese and international judicial authorities, being assassins having little respect for human rights (as is the case of Laurent Mihigo Nkunda) and tools in the hands of Rwanda who head the rebel soldiers of Bukavu, cannot act without the support of a bordering country. In this region adjacent to Rwanda and Burundi, Rwanda alone has the requisite supporting logistics.

My Government requests you to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

04-37556 (E) 070604 070604

Annex to the letter dated 3 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué of the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

1. The Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of the Congo met in an extraordinary session at the Cité de l'Union Africaine on Wednesday, 2 June 2004, upon being convened by the President of the Republic and Head of the State, His Excellency Major-General Joseph Kabila.

2. The agenda included a single item, namely, the situation in Bukavu.

3. After hearing the report of the President of the Republic on the evolution of the military situation in Bukavu, the Council of Ministers engaged in a debate, the conclusions of which are as follows:

3.1. Since 25 May 2004, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, our country, has been the object of an attempt to destabilize Nord-Kivu and Sud-Kivu which has this day resulted in the occupation of Bukavu by the Rwandan Patriotic Army;

3.2. The ethnic problems, and more specifically protection of the Banyamulenge, alleged as grounds for the Bukavu attack, are part of a manoeuvre by Rwanda to justify its aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as has been the case in the past;

The Government congratulates the Congolese population on not having yielded to that provocation;

In fact, the object being pursued is to put an end to the process of effective reunification of the country. This is perfectly illustrated by the simultaneity of the eruption of the Bukavu events and the swearing-in of the governors and vice-governors of the province.

4. The Government condemns in the strongest terms the violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of the Congo by Rwanda in defiance of the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and resolutions of the African Union.

5. The Government requests the Security Council strongly to condemn Rwanda for this act of aggression and demands that the Council take appropriate measures under the Charter of the United Nations to put an end to it.

6. Similarly, the Government reminds the Security and Peace Council of the African Union of its responsibilities and expects the Union effectively to sanction the violation of its Charter constituted by this renewed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo by Rwanda.

7. The Government calls upon the entire Congolese people to mobilize as a single man from North to South, from East to West, in order to thwart the diabolical manoeuvres aimed at destabilizing the country and to save the current transition process, making sure that no situation gets out of hand.

8. In accordance with article 74 of the Constitution, the Government requests the President of the Republic, in view of the extreme gravity of the situation, to take forthwith the measures provided for by articles 135 and 136 of the Constitution with a view to declaring a state of emergency throughout the national territory.

9. In order to cope with the situation and preserve the transition process, the Government has set up three crisis units in charge, respectively, of:

9.1. Military and security questions;

9.2. Diplomacy and communication;

9.3. Finance and logistics.

Kinshasa, 2 June 2004

Simon **Tshitenge**
Vice-Minister of the Press and Information